

ration of India through their own infrastructure. So far as efforts by the Government of India are concerned, it organises Zonal Seed Conferences prior to each sowing season i.e. Kharif and Rabi. The requirement for Kharif, 1991 and its availability was reviewed with the State Governments and it was observed that against the requirement of 18.92 lakh qts. of high yielding variety seeds, 19.02 lakhs qts. was available.

(c) In order to assist the State Governments for production and distribution of seeds, the Government of India also supplements their efforts through National Seed Producing Agencies and Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

[*Translation*]

#### **Soil Conservation in Bihar**

2300. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:  
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI  
ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Centrally sponsored soil conservation schemes being implemented in Bihar;

(b) the funds allocated for those schemes during 1990-91; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check soil erosion in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Centrally Sponsored Soil Conservation Schemes implemented in Bihar are (i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and (ii) Integrated Watershed Management in the catchment areas of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR).

(b) Rs. 670 lakhs have been allocated during 1990-91 to Bihar for these two schemes together.

(c) The steps taken by Government to check soil erosion in Bihar include mechanical and biological measures according to requirements of the terrain.

[*English*]

#### **Projects to Control Floods and Erosion in Assam**

2301. SHRI NURUL ISLAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects for control of erosion and floods in Assam are pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which those are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) There are three projects and they have been examined. One pertaining to protection of Mukalmua Howlighat Area (cost Rs. 17.83 crores) is to be considered for technical approval and the other two pertaining to protection of Nagaghooli Maijan Area (cost Rs. 17.60 crores) and Raising and Strengthening of Gabru Embankment (cost Rs. 3.91 crores) will be considered after the required modifications are carried out.

#### **Publication of Telephone Directories**

2302. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANTI-GRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for publication of Telephone Directories from private sources;

(b) the terms and conditions of agreement between the Government and the private concern; and

(c) the profit earned or loss suffered due to privatisation of the publication of Telephone Directories?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The policy to get the Telephone Directories printed by awarding comprehensive contracts for printing, binding, supply of paper, procuring advertisements and delivery of adequate number of directories, free of charge, was decided to overcome delays in—

- (i) finalising of rate contract by DGS&D for supply of paper;
  - (ii) finalising of advertisements etc.;
  - (iii) supply of paper by the manufacturers;
  - (iv) Delays by printing presses due to inadequate resources, capability etc.
- (b) The major terms and conditions of the contract, in general, are:

- (i) Contractor is authorised to collect advertisements from the customers/public and publish telephone directories on behalf of the Government/MTNL;
- (ii) Besides, providing adequate number of telephone directories, free of cost to the Department for distribution amongst telephone subscribers etc., the Contractor also has to pay an agreed amount/percentage as Royalty to the Department.

(c) There is no loss to the Department/Government. On the contrary, Government saves on publishing telephone directories, the cost of paper, work of collection of advertisements etc. besides earning substantial revenue by way of the royalty charges.

[Translation]

#### **Grant for Control of Floods and Soil Erosion**

2303. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give any grant for control of floods and soil erosion caused by Chhoti, Gandak, Ghaghra, Rapti, Khanua and Narayani rivers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) As per present policy, Central assistance is in the form of block grants and loans not attached to any Sector of development or a project. In the approved outlays for 1991-92, there is no specific provision in Central Sector for giving grants to control floods in these rivers.

[English]

#### **Mahi-Bajaj Sagar Project**

2304. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has provided 0.75 flap in the gates of Mahi-Bajaj Sagar Project near Banswara which is likely to affect additional 68 hectares of land of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to make good the loss suffered by Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir Flaps of 0.75 metre height have been provided to the gates of Mahi-Bajaj-sagar Dam.

(b) A meeting of the Irrigation Water Resources Ministers of Rajasthan Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat was convened on 6th February, 1991 at New Delhi to consider the representation made by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in this regard. The suggestion of the Minister of Water Resources to hold discussions individually with the States concerned, in the first instance, was agreed to in the meeting. Due to quick changes